

Serial No. 09/856,116
Attorney Docket: 75249-009

Amendments to the Claims:

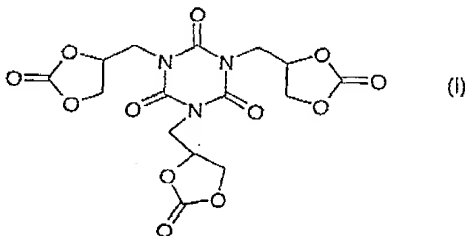
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A crosslinking agent for heat-curable carboxyl-containing polymers, in particular for systems containing carboxyl-terminated polyesters, carboxyl-containing acrylate polymers and/or methacrylate polymers, which crosslinking agent consists at least of one cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compound, which is characterised in that said cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compound contains at least one catalyst in dissolved or dispersed form, which has been incorporated separately into the isocyanurate compound prior to the crosslinking reaction.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~[[A]] The~~ crosslinking agent according to claim 1, wherein the cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compound has a melting point of at least 120°C, ~~preferably of at least 130°C and, particularly preferably, of at least 140°C.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~[[A]] The~~ crosslinking agent according to claim 1, wherein the cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compound is a tris(2-oxo-1,3-dioxolanyl-4-methyl)isocyanurate of formula (I):



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Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The crosslinking agent according to claim 1, wherein the cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compound is a compound analogous to the compound tris(2-oxo-1,3-dioxolanyl-4-methyl)isocyanurate of formula (I) of claim 3, but ~~[[and]]~~ contains only one single or two cyclocarbonate group(s), the remaining groups being in the form of glycidyl radicals, ~~which analogous compound preferably contains not more than 35 mol %, particularly preferably not more than 5 mol % of epoxy groups.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The crosslinking agent according to ~~[[to]]~~ claim 1, which comprises the catalyst in an amount from 0.01% by weight to 20% by weight, ~~preferably from 0.1% by weight to 10% by weight, more preferably from 5% by weight,~~ based on the weight of the cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compound.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The crosslinking agent according to ~~[[to]]~~ claim 1, which comprises a catalyst which acts selectively predominantly or exclusively on the cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compound.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The crosslinking agent according to ~~[[to]]~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst ~~[[which]]~~ accelerates the crosslinking reaction of the cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compounds with the carboxyl-containing polymers and is a compound acting as a Lewis acid or as a Lewis base, FeSO₄, NaHSO₄, CeSO₄, H₃PO₄, ZnCl₂, Na₂CO₃, phosphonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, dimethylsulfonic acid, an ammonium salt and/or a phosphonium salt.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The crosslinking agent according to ~~[[to]]~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst ~~[[which]]~~ accelerates the crosslinking reaction of the cyclocarbonate group-

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containing isocyanurate compounds with the carboxyl-containing polymer and is a tetraalkyl ammonium halide, an aryl- and alkyl- substituted ammonium halide and/or a phosphonium salt, ~~preferably a phosphonium halide and, most preferably, an ethyltriphenylphosphonium bromide.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a crosslinking agent according [[to]] to claim 1, which comprises dissolving a cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compound in a suitable solvent, dissolving or dispersing therein at least one catalyst and then removing the solvent again.

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (new): The crosslinking agent according to claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (I) contains not more than 35 mol-% of epoxy groups.

Claim 13 (new): The crosslinking agent according to claim 12, wherein the compound of formula (I) contains not more than 5 mol-% of epoxy groups.

Claim 14 (new): The crosslinking agent according to claim 5, which comprises the catalyst in an amount from 0.1% by weight to 10% by weight based on the weight of the cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compound.

Claim 15 (new): The crosslinking agent according to claim 14, which comprises the catalyst in an amount from 5% by weight to 10% by weight based on the weight of the cyclocarbonate group-containing isocyanurate compound.

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Claim 16 (new): The crosslinking agent according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is a phosphonium halide.

Claim 17 (new): The crosslinking agent according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is an ethyltriphenylphosphonium bromide.

Claim 18 (new): A heat curable system comprising:

- (a) a carboxyl-containing polymer as binder;
- (b) a crosslinking agent according to claim 1; and
- (c) optionally, one or more glycidyl compounds and at least one catalyst for the crosslinking reaction of said glycidyl compounds together with the carboxyl-containing polymer binder.

Claim 19 (new): The heat curable system of claim 18, wherein element (b) is present in an amount from 1 to 20 percent by weight based on the sum of the weight of element (b) and element (a); and the weight ratio of the amount of element (b) to the amount of element (c), if present, is from 0.1 to 2.0.

Claim 20 (new): The heat curable system of claim 19, wherein the weight ratio of the amount of element (b) to the amount of element (c), if present, is from 0.1 to 1.0.

Claim 21 (new): The heat curable system of claim 20, wherein the weight ratio of the amount of element (b) to the amount of element (c), if present, is from 0.2 to 0.5.